

Southern Berkshire Regional School District  
Policy subcommittee meeting  
October 8, 2014  
Committee members: Kristen Sparhawk, Charlie Flynn, Maria Rundle  
Also in attendance: Dave Hastings

**D R A F T**

Meeting brought to order at 7:05pm.

Ms. Rundle moved to approve the minutes of July 10th; Ms. Sparhawk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Proposal for Early Childhood Education Updates for Monterey**

Ms. Rundle requested that the district pursue a policy that would allow more four-year-olds to enter the district's early kindergarten program. The age cut-off for Early-K was pushed back last year from December 31st to March 1st; it would be good to continue opening up the Early-K program to more students in a stepped progression. The feedback from the Monterey School has been positive and the teacher is supportive of opening the program to all four-year-olds. Ms. Rundle suggested continuing to move back the entry date for four-year-olds and to change the name of the Early-K program to K1 and K2 so as to receive funding from the state for the program.

Ms. Sparhawk asked about accepting choice students into a more expansive kindergarten program. If an outside district doesn't offer EK for four-year-olds, would they pay for their students to come to ours? Mr. Flynn suggested that out of district students could join for tuition if their district isn't willing to pay for the student to choice into the program. Once the student is eligible for choice, they would no longer have to pay tuition and their district would pay.

Ms. Sparhawk also asked about whether opening up the EK program to more four-year-olds would mean the Pre-K would lose students. There is currently a waiting list for the Pre-K program at NMC.

Mr. Flynn suggested a pilot program for four-year-olds in the Monterey School to see how expanding eligibility effects the program. The policy would specify that admission of out-of-district students whose home district does not reimburse for four-year-olds would be at the discretion of the Superintendent with the option to charge tuition until the student is eligible for reimbursement. Mr. Hastings suggested an eligibility date of September 1st for four-year-olds.

Mr. Hastings offered to look into funding for the Early-K program if the program is all referred to as Kindergarten with designations for K1 and K2 within a multi-age classroom.

Ms. Rundle offered to draft a policy for the next meeting.

**Bullying Policy Revisions**

Changes to Prevention and Intervention policy: expanded to include staff with named positions. This change was recommended by staff and administration to bring the policy in line with state recommendations.

**Additional MASC policy recommendations**

Mr. Flynn will send proposed changes from the MASC to the rest of the committee to review for the next meeting: October 29th, 7:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm